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Talking Points for the DCI
14 July 1983

Israel

The Israelis remain concerned about continuing casualties in Lebanon--domestic pressure on the Begin government to reduce the toll remains high. Begin would like to redeploy some forces.

- He is afraid that linking move to concern over casualties would only strengthen Syrian intransigence. For this reason, he will link a redeployment to withdrawal agreement and seek to coordinate move with the US and Lebanon.

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We believe the Israeli public probably shares Begin's concern about not wanting to give the impression of withdrawing because of casualties and supports his strategy.

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Lebanon

Lebanese factional leaders are distancing themselves from Gemayel and cozying up to their traditional foreign patrons. If the Lebanese Army unable to maintain security other groups are likely to return to violence to achieve goals.

- Druze leader Junblatt continues to resist Army deployment and serious fighting could erupt there if a political solution is not achieved before Israel redeploys.
- Shia Muslims will look to Syria and Iran.
- [redacted] some Sunni religious leaders are working to unite Shias and Sunnis against Christian domination.
- Christian militia leaders eager to control a truncated Lebanese state--receptive to Israeli offers of assistance. Israelis have suggested that Phalange forces could help govern southern Lebanon.

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Gemayel is doing little to reassure factional groups--would settle for a Christian mini-state if partition becomes inevitable.

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PL0

Fatah rebellion shows no signs of losing steam--no recent major defections but individual fighters continue to join rebels--most PL0 fighters hope for compromise providing for Arafat to remain as PL0 leader while accepting rebel demands for more militant policies and collective leadership.

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- Fighters are concerned that rebels risk becoming Syrian puppets now that Assad has thrown weight behind anti-Arafat movement
- Arafat's supporters prepared for further skirmishing with the rebels. [REDACTED]

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Syria

President Assad will see partial withdrawal as a victory-- proves that a standpat policy can achieve Syrian goals. Specifically he will:

- Cite the "victory" to the Saudis in rejecting their blandishments to acquiesce and to make it harder for the Saudis themselves to support it.
- Encourage Druze to make trouble in the Shuf/Alayh area southeast of Beirut to weaken Gemayel.
- Continue to court moderate Shia leader Nabih Barri in hope of using Amal to step up attacks on the IDF. [REDACTED]

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Lebanese-Israeli Withdrawal Lines



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SUBJECT: Talking Points for the DCI (14 July 1983)

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